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for the publication of the above volume are as follows: 1. "There are times when legal counsel cannot be had." 2. "There are times and circumstances which render it advisable to be one's own legal counsellor." 3. "Ignorance of the law is no excuse."

The above purpose is a very laudable one, and it would be a great privilege to the busy merchant or isolated farmer to be able to turn over a few pages and learn what the law is on some vexatious question, and not have to waste time or money in consulting counsel. But the many previous efforts to give the public a book of the kind have proved pretty conclusively that the value of such a work must be extremely limited.

Well might such volumes be compared to the numerous works on "Household Medicine." One of the latter gives as a cure for apoplexy: "Give the patient a drink of cold water and run for the nearest doctor." The water was possibly a momentary relief, but the physician had to be consulted. So in the law, the brief treatment of the various topics in a work like the above, may in some cases afford the layman some mental refreshment or even give him some slight knowledge of his case. But so brief a work cannot be comprehensive enough to be of any real value, and the references are made to books which no layman possesses; surely it is cheaper and safer to retain a lawyer than buy a law library.

To the legal profession the book can be of little value, for while it is nominally an encyclopedia of law and forms, its scope is so great and its pages so few as to render thorough treatment of any single topic impossible

R. B. W.

A TREATISE ON COMMERCIAL PAPER AND THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW, INCLUDING THE LAW RELATING TO PROMISSORY NOTES, BILLS OF EXCHANGE, CHECKS, MUNICIPAL BONDS AND OTHER NEGOTIABLE AND NON-NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS, COMMONLY CLASSED AS COMMERCIAL PAPER, WITH AN APPENDIX CONTAINING THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW AND THE ENGLISH BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACT. By JAMES W. EATON, late Lecturer on the Law of Contracts and Negotiable Instruments in the Albany Law School, and on Evidence in the Boston University Law School; former editor of the *American Bankruptcy Reports* and author of *Eaton on Equity*, and of the Third Edition of *Collier on Bankruptcy*: and FRANK B. GILBERT, author of *Gilbert on Domestic Relations*, etc. Pp. iii-xciii + 1-767. Albany, N. Y.: Matthew Bender. 1903.

The law of negotiable instruments occupies a rather unique position because of its immense importance in commercial

transactions. Again, there is perhaps no other phase of the law which requires uniformity throughout the world so much as the law of bills and notes. Hence, the efforts of recent years to codify the law on the subject have been welcomed by the public, and the code has been already adopted in nineteen of the states and will probably soon become the law in all the states of the Union.

The authors of the above work set out to make it a treatise on commercial paper in all its various aspects, but especially with a view of expounding on the principles of the subject in connection with the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Law. Hence the work follows pretty closely the general plan of the Negotiable Instruments Law, first stating the provisions of the law, then adding extensive comments thereon, together with a careful treatment of the correlative principles. Whenever at all necessary, references are given to state authorities, often combined with the special statutory provisions in the different jurisdictions.

The treatment on the various points is as exhaustive as the most exacting practitioner could ask, and is so systematically arranged as to be found in an instant. Black-faced type indicates the general subject of the articles, while the contents of the various sub-heads are indicated by italics.

The notes are very full, and a synopsis of the decisions cited is given in a great number of cases. Although the various sections of the Act are given in the main body of the text, they are given again in the appendix *in toto*, together with the English Bills of Exchange Act.

Taking the book as a whole, we can conscientiously recommend it to both lawyer and student, for we know of no other book of its kind that surpasses it in any respect.

The general arrangement is so systematic, the treatment of the various topics so logical, the references to text-writers, decisions and statutes so abundant, that one can work up any case involving the law of commercial paper with the least possible expenditure of time and trouble.

R. B. W.

AARON BURR: HIS PERSONAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONS
WITH THOMAS JEFFERSON AND ALEXANDER HAMILTON.
By ISAAC JENKINSON. Pp. viii + 389. Richmond, Ind.:
M. Cullaton & Co., 1902.

Thomas Jefferson said: "Nothing is so desirable to me as that after mankind shall have been abused by such gross falsehoods as to events while passing, their minds should at length be set to right by genuine truth."